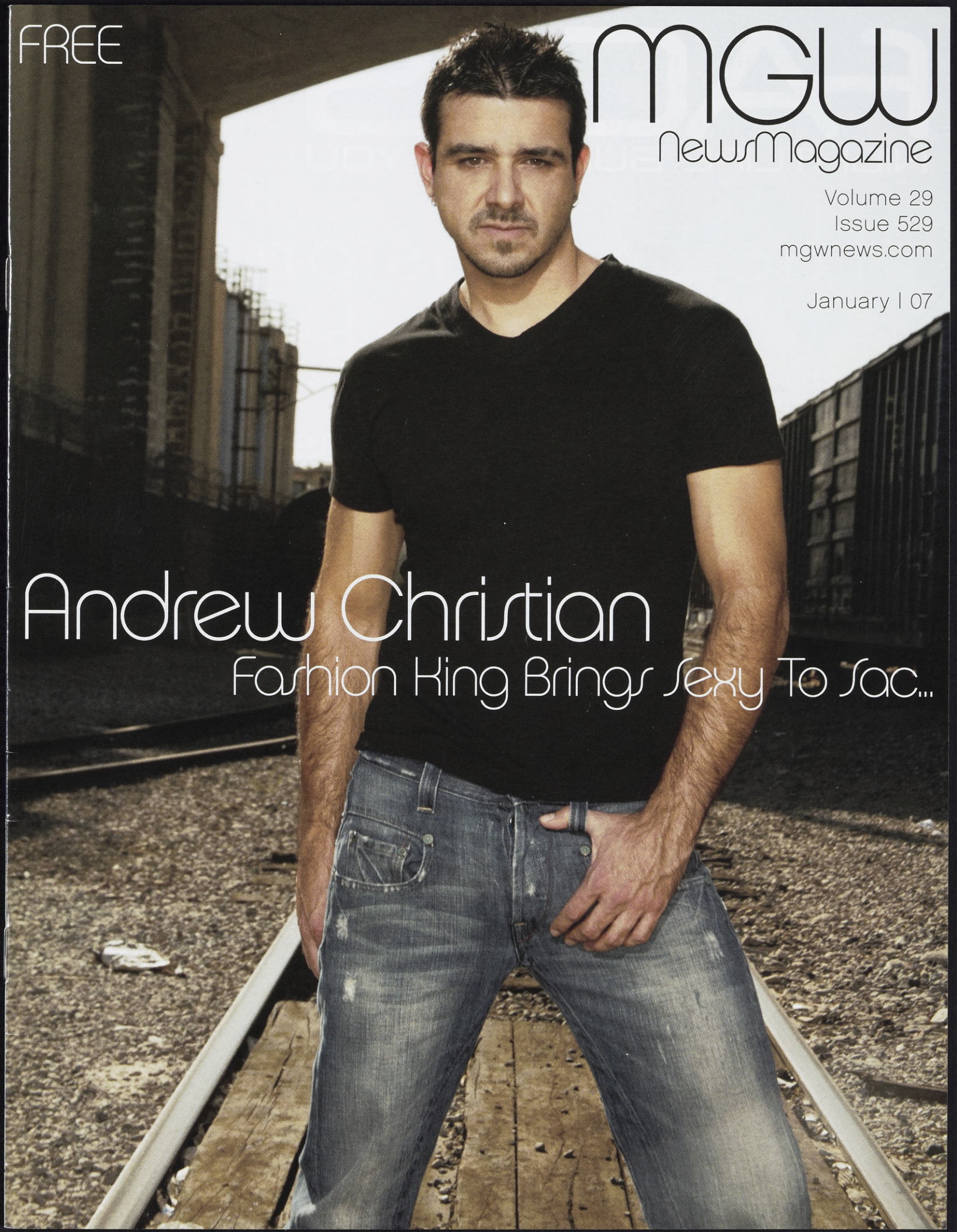
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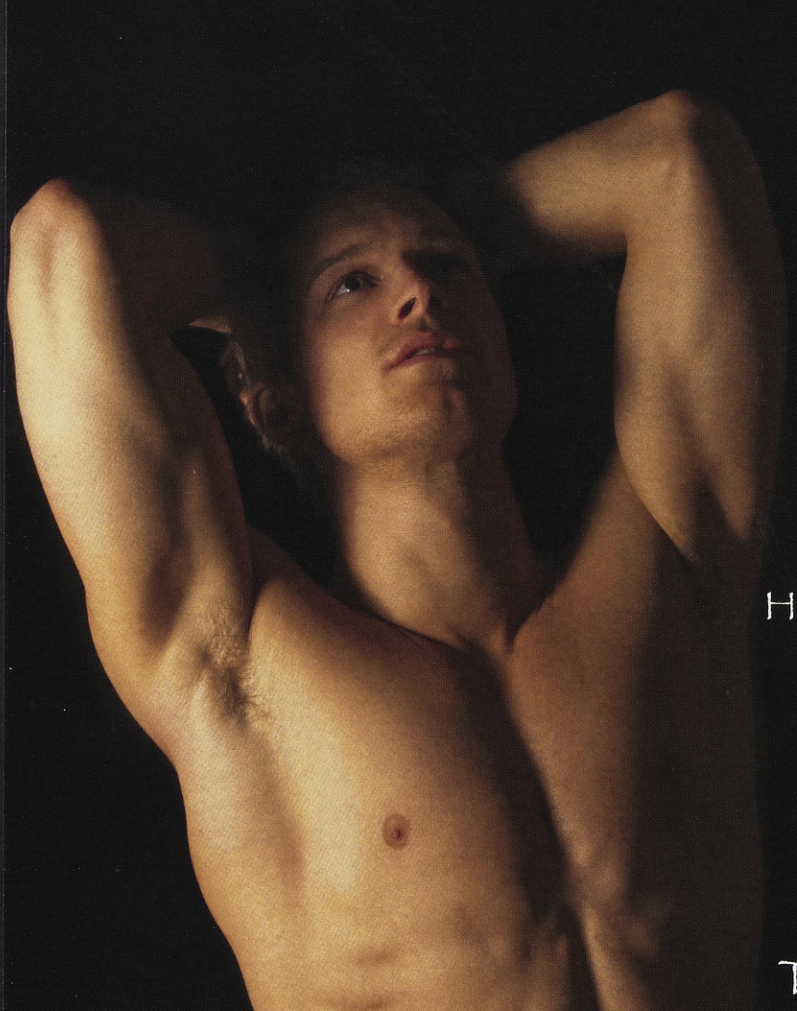

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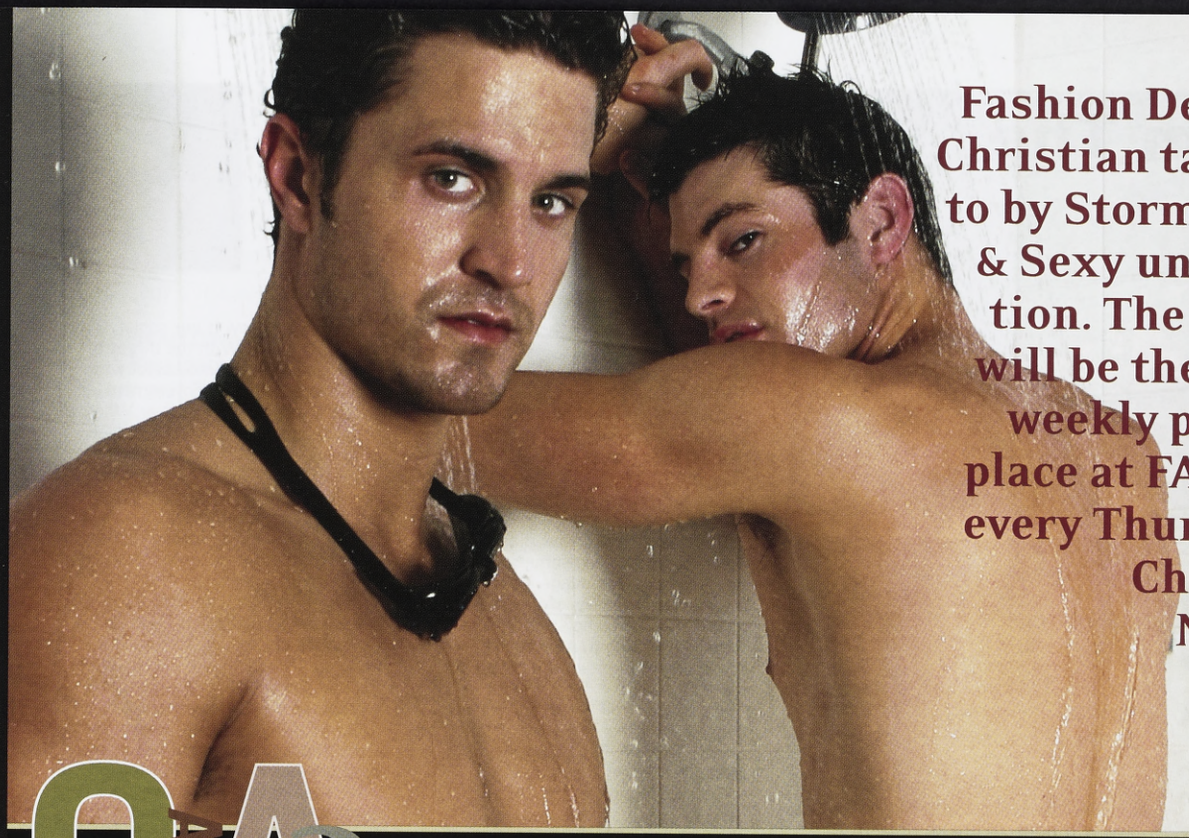


Fashion Designer Andrew Christian takes Sacramento by Storm with his sassy & Sexy underwear collection. The coveted undies will be the focus of a new weekly program to take place at FACES Nightclub every Thursday thanks to Christian & MGW NewsMagazine.

14

Q&A

Compiled by Tony G.

Tony G. Q&A Columnist

My main concern is that people lack the confidence within themselves to realize what they're capable of. We are each amazingly beautiful creatures with abilities beyond what we can imagine. All we need to do is recognize that once we do we can shine even brighter than the sun.

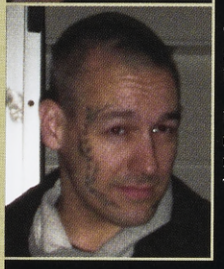
What is your biggest concern with today's society?

MELISSA
Citrus Heights
Mortgage Consulting

We don't take responsibility for our potential. Being ourselves to the fullest, shining so others can see our greatness will encourage those who see our light to be what they dream.

JOEY
Sacramento
Student

The government's recent approval of GMO/Ckned cattle for American Consumers

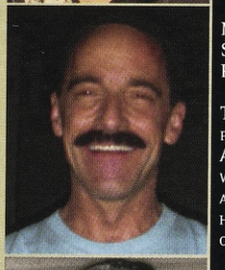


TODD
Sacramento
Producer

People having children. You have a licence os drive a car, but not tpo have kids. (And naming them Angie)

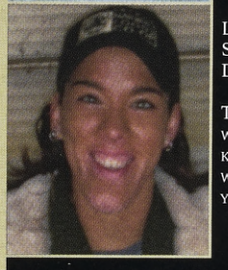
MARLA
Sacramento
Customer Service Rep.

Our children of today need to be more patient and let life take it's course.



MICHAEL
Sacramento
Peer Counselor in Training

The Division between rich and poor—No middle class. 1% of America owns 40% of all the wealth, most people with jobs are one check away from being homeless and more of our younger generations are failing in school.



LEANN
Sacramento
Dancer

There are two many standards on what we should look like, what kind of career, how much money we should make. Society wants you to be a certain way. Labels.

COLLEEN
Sacramento
Radiation Therapist

People don't educate themselves with the conflicts in the world today. Everyone likes to have an opinion so they just follow what someone else said and don't have a mind of their own.

LAURA
Sacramento
Hostess/waitress

That people just can't be themselves.

MARIA
Sacramento
Student

My concern is how people judge or make assumptions on how much money you make—how you're only accepted in places based on your job or bank account. It' sad to see people live their lives just to be able to be accepted in these places.

From The Publisher

Well another year has passed us by, and a new one begins. For many the New Year brings about a desire for change in one's life, whether to quit smoking (something I never conquered) or better health and fitness. Everyone has something they either don't like or just want to make better in their lives. Well, I think that is true with businesses as well.

As the active Publisher of MGW, I constantly struggle with trying to keep a neutral balance on all fronts. Treat all equally and fairly whether or not I get the same in return. The last year has taught me that as a person that is a great quality, as a businessman that is a problem and as a gay male it is near impossible. The struggle for equality is not just a problem with heterosexuals; it is just as complicated amongst the GLBT community.

You walk into a bar in our local scene and you are greeted with smiles by some while others sneer at you. Stereotypes, clique groups and just plain attitude are displayed as plain as day.

But when you reach out to help a non-profit organization or other community entity and they flat ignore you, or treat you as if you do not exist because of the influence of these groups and stereotypes, do we then not realize there is a problem within our own infrastructure? Do we not realize the amount of people in need who would benefit from this help will now suffer for the lack of it? Because of one or two people's personal, and often times petty, alliances?

Perhaps this is why so many of our businesses and organizations have failed through the years.

So moving on into 2007 I have made the decision to take my own advice from the last several issues and be a part of the solution instead of the problem. This will require me to learn to be more aggressive, and speak up when things get to be out of control. I ask you, my readers, my customers, my friends and my family to join me in this journey. For equality truly can only be achieved when we are united.

As long as we fight each other we will never truly be united. It shouldn't take a disaster, or act of violence to make us again work together as one. We truly are, at times, our own worst enemies.

Reach out and make an effort, put the past behind you and move forward and progress. The end result will amaze you! I strongly believe our community can come together again, if we are willing to make an effort.

Sometimes you have to let what's not working fade into the past so that you can build a bigger and brighter future.

Jeffry A. Davis

From The Editor

Shhh! Quiet! Someone's listening! Their ears are pressed against the walls. They are tapping the phone. They are next to you at the coffee shop and recording what you say. They are in your house while you are gone—reading the post-its on your fridge. They are CCed all your emails. They open your letters. They know what's on your Netflix Queue.

They have trained your plants to report to them using some-sort of florescent light language. Or maybe it's the cat? He never wants to be held anymore—maybe he's an informant. He's just waiting to hear you say something anti-establishment so he can rat you out.

Scared yet? You better be, or there's gonna be another red alert for a terror attack. Then you'll be glad they're reading your text messages.

The Homeland Security Act has done its job. It's made we regular citizens look over our shoulder and watch what we say. Introduced in the aftermath of September 11, the Department of Homeland Security is the largest government reorganization since the Department of Defense was created. The HSA is a sweeping anti-terrorism bill giving federal law enforcement agencies broad powers to monitor citizens.

Many argue that Civil liberties are imperiled by the Homeland Security Act. The rights to freedom of speech, religion, assembly and privacy; the rights to counsel and due process; and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures all are called into question. Will they be upheld? Or pushed aside for "the good of the people"?

So basically the government wants to make sure we are loyal citizens and we want the freedom to be loyal citizens without being checked up on.

But with Big Brother looking over our shoulders, how is our society being impacted? With the threat of being legally taken into custody for speaking out against government policy, it makes one cautious. When we see it happening, as it has a number of times—and who knows how many more times that have been unreported—it more than makes one cautious, it can make one downright paranoid. Especially when you have a reputation of being...discontent...with the current administration.

I began thinking more about this several weeks ago when I was on my cell phone discussing the Sadaam hanging. My friend and I were agreeing that the sooner President Bush was out of office, the better. We then followed our statements with affirmations that we didn't want to see him assassinated.

We then discussed that we were against the death penalty and felt Sadaam should not have been hanged. We followed this with affirmations that we both thought he was a mass-murdering dickhead and had no sympathy for him. Hmm...

We continued our discussion and each time we touched on a hot political topic, I noticed we both followed our feelings with a party-line statement as if we both felt we were being listened in on—or thought the other may be working for "them" trying to round up the dissidents.

When did we become too afraid to speak our mind? When did our American-ingrained right to free speech mutate into a wishy-washy half statement?

Fuck that! Bush sucks, they shouldn't have hung Sadaam and the war on Iraq is a contrived fiasco that needs to end. So there!

Matthew Burlingame

MGW

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SVL In 2007

By Daddy Sage
SVL Sergeant-at-Arms

With the new year upon us it's time to introduce the 2007 SVL Board and update you on some of wonderful plans this new and rejuvenated Board has in store for 2007!

The 2007 SVL board is:

President: Dave Weller
Vice President: Mark Olson
Secretary: David Goold
Treasurer: John-Paul Olafson
Sergeant-at-Arms: Sage
Director-at-large: Kevin Alverson
Director-at-large: Bill Burgua
Director-at-Large: Scotty.

To celebrate the board's election, a Meet and Greet and Beer/Soda Bust will be held Sun. Jan. 28 at the Bolt (2860 Boxwood, Sac.) with the Beer/Soda Bust starting at 3pm and the festivities starting at 5pm.

What does 2007 have in store for SVL? SVL is now doing business as the Sacramento Valley Leathercorps. This reflects SVL's membership expansion to include women. SVL continues to be a group for anyone interested in BDSM, Leather, Kink, and Fetish who identifies as gay, lesbian, or queer. We also welcome those who are bisexual or transgender who identify themselves as part of the GLBT/queer community. SVL has chosen to expand its membership as a way of bringing together the entire queer BDSM/Leather Community. However, there will still be some events that are exclusively for men and some that are women-only.

So you may be asking, what do I get for joining? Well, first and foremost, your membership dues help to continue the work of SVL, including our monthly Education Class, Pancake Breakfast, and Leathercorps Night Out. We also have some new things planned for this year including the institution of an annual MVP award for a person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the BDSM/Leather Community in the Sacramento Valley. Also, we are seriously considering producing our own title contests...Sacramento Valley Mr. and Ms. Leather... sometime in the fall. We also have numerous other events we will be putting on over the course of the year. Last but not least, SVL is planning a coordinated presence at many major area events including the SF Pride Parade, Dore Alley Street Fair, Leather-Levi Weekend Campout, and of course the Folsom Street Fair.

Beyond supporting the work of SVL, the Board is currently developing a number of benefits for members. We are designing a membership card which will get you a 10% discount at the new Grind & Groove store on K St. and we will be setting up member discounts at other local businesses as well.

The two most important things SVL does are the monthly Pancake Breakfast and the monthly Education Class. The Pancake Breakfast provides monthly grants that support four excellent community service organizations: Breaking Barriers, True Colors Women's Chorus, Lavender Library, and Lambda Players. The Pancake Breakfasts are the first Sunday of the month from 10am-12:30pm at the Mercantile Saloon at the corner of L and 20th Sts.

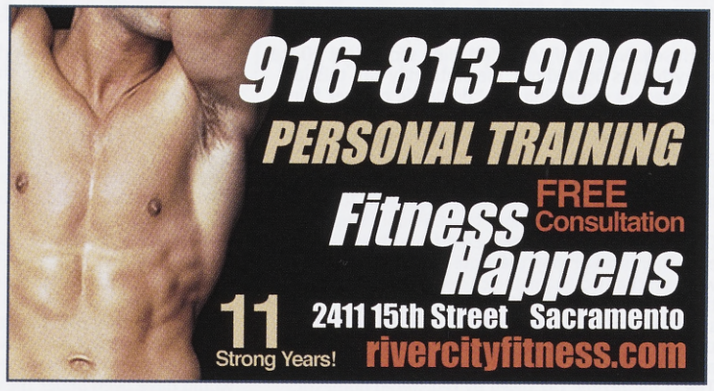
The monthly Education Class provides valuable information on a variety of BDSM and fetish related subjects with an eye towards safer sex play. The SVL Education Committee has put together a slew of fantastic presenters for 2007. The classes are held at the Geery Theatre on the first Thursday the month from 7:30-9:30pm.

There's never been a better time to get involved...and it couldn't be easier. You can now join or renew your membership right online via our website at www.svlclub.org. (The newly rebuilt and updated website. Many thanks to our new Webmaster, Scotty, for a terrific job!) If you have any questions about Sacramento Valley Leathercorps or about membership, please e-mail us at Membership@svlclub.org. We are looking forward to your renewed interest in SVL and seeing you at one of our events soon!

CGNIE's White Rose Awards

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2006 White Rose Awards

Felicia Jewel Halston, Empress 30 of Reno; Devin Clardy, Breaking Barriers, Sacramento; Sondra Saint James, Empress 19 of Modesto; Crystalll Blue, Miss Gay Pride Idaho, 2001 & 2004, Bianca Ramos, Sacramento; Krystal Powers, Sacramento; David Courtney Corn, Emperor 30 of Reno, NV, Danielle, Empress 24, 25 & 27, Sacramento



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New Domestic Partner Tax Bill Takes Effect

By Boyce Hinman

In 2006 SB 1827 was signed by the Governor. This bill, sponsored by Equality California, changes the way that registered domestic partners in California submit their state income taxes. Under SB 1827 registered domestic partners must file their state income taxes jointly or separately on terms similar to those governing married couples.

You should discuss this issue with your tax advisor. However, here are the facts being given to us by the California Franchise Tax Board at this time. Previously each person in a registered domestic partnership filed individual state income tax returns. The return of one partner was unrelated to the return of the other partner. Under SB 1827 registered domestic partners will file jointly (on one set of tax forms) or each domestic partner may file separately as the equivalent of "married filing separately." Once everything is figured out, the state may call this latter category something like "domestic partner filing separately."

This all takes effect beginning with calendar year 2007. So the new way of filing your state income tax returns will begin in the spring of 2008 as you prepare your state income tax returns for 2007.

However, there is another issue. People employed in California have money deducted from their paycheck each month to prepay the state income tax that they will eventually owe for the current year. When filing their tax returns for a given year, they figure the total state income tax owed for the year, subtract from that the amount already paid in monthly deductions, and then send the state a check for the difference. The state income tax owed by registered domestic partners will be based on their combined income. If you are a registered domestic partner, and if you like to owe no tax at the end of the year, or if you like to get a refund of state income taxes, you and your partner should make a preliminary estimate of the state taxes you will owe under the new system. You may then want to make adjustments to the amount of state taxes you have deducted from your paycheck each month during 2007.

The situation is similar for retired registered domestic partners. They make estimated tax payments four times a year to prepay their state income taxes during the year. The final tax they owe for the year will be based on their joint income during the year. So they may want to adjust the amount they pay each quarter.

Retired registered domestic partners will use form 540-ES when submitting their quarterly estimated state taxes. They will use one form for both of them rather than a separate copy for each of them. They should record each of their names and social security numbers on that one form along with the amount they are paying. Then they should send the form to the California Franchise Tax Board along with their check.

There are a number of issues raised by this new system. The first is how much tax will be owed. Couples in which one partner earns much more than the other may find they are paying less taxes as a couple than they did when they were filing separate returns. However, couples with similar incomes may find that their total taxes owed are more than they would have been under the old system. Apparently married filing separately will be the most expensive way to pay your state income taxes.

The cost of having people prepare taxes for you will probably be higher for registered domestic partners as well. The federal government does not recognize domestic partnerships. They don't allow domestic partners to file joint tax returns or to use the married filing separately option. Under the old system the rules for state and federal income taxes were very similar. So, when a tax preparer had completed your federal income tax returns, most of the computations needed for the state forms was done. Just a few more steps were needed to complete the state forms. Now the tax preparer will have to do the state returns from scratch. That will take more time and create more billable hours.

Another issue is who reports what income when registered domestic partners file as married filing separately. Does each partner report his or her own income on his or her tax return? In fact community property laws apply. That means that each partner would report one half of the total household income and pay taxes on that amount. On the other hand, on the federal tax returns, the couple will continue to file separate returns and each will report his or her own actual income.

So, domestic partners are entering an entirely new world of tax laws and regulations.

Boyce Hinman may be contacted at LambdaLP@aol.com.

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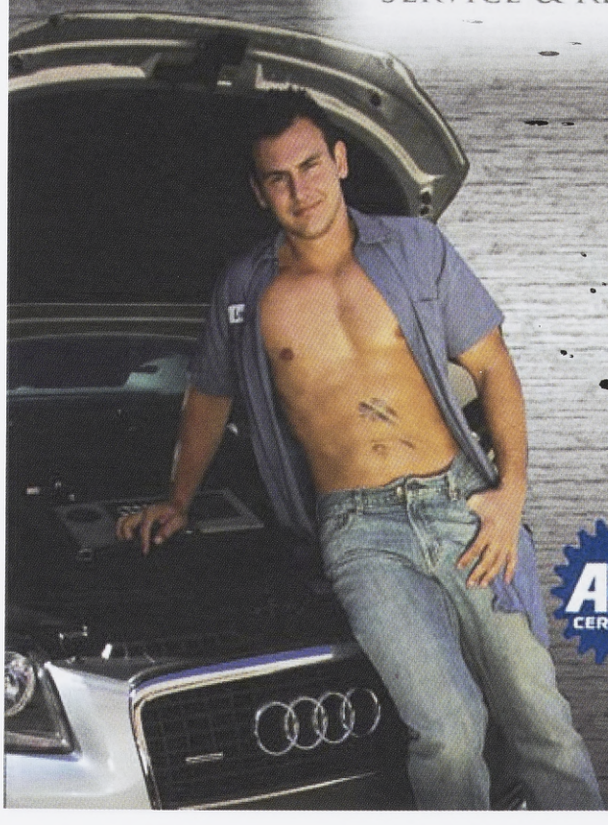

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Clutching the Pearl

By David Warpness

It takes a pearl anywhere from three to six years to grow from an irritant to a thing of beauty and then not all oysters produce pearls. In fact, according to Wikipedia, a haul of three tons of oysters will net only three or four with perfect pearls. Not great odds but for those determined how great it would be to find one, just one perfect pearl. Eleni Galitsopoulos, owner of Pearl, a new salon here in Sacramento, hopes she has done just that, found the perfect pearl.

Actually that is not completely true. Galitsopoulos believes she has created a Pearl worth people's attention. Like the process of creating cultured pearls that was patented in the 1800's Galitsopoulos has put much effort into creating a thing of beauty. A salon that is clean, classic, professional and fun. "I just did not want to have a 'Shh, shh' salon," states Galitsopoulos.

"Sacramento has grown up and it is time for a grown up salon "

Having spent her formative years in Europe she has developed a strong belief that you should work with what you have. Clean, crisp, natural products and processes make for true beauty. Pearl likes to work with their clients to repair damage done so as to set a good foundation for the future. "You don't build a house on sand," states Galitsopoulos.

Clean is the operative word with Galitsopoulos when it comes to her theories on beauty and how she keeps the salon. With that in mind you won't find acrylic nails at the manicure bar. Not only does that eliminate the nasty acrylic dust and smell, but also starts clients in the direction of developing strong beautiful nails of their own. No more nasty fungus growing under those fake nails.

Pearl is a "white salon" where in the barber chairs are white, the counters are white and the lighting is bright. Every surface will show any dust or dirt so it must always be clean. The design is, of course, on purpose. Even the pedicure room has chairs with foot bowls but no whirlpools. According to Galitsopoulos even state regulations are not enough to keep them clean to her standards. "People don't miss them, in fact most are pleased they do not have to put their feet in the whirlpool."

Given the high standards of Pearl one might get the idea that it is, as Galitsopoulos states, "A shh shh salon." But it is quite the opposite with its techno music and friendly staff. It almost has the feel of just hanging out at a friend's house. "I was concerned that the music and light hearted atmosphere would put off the older clients but so far they really like it and they keep coming back," Galitsopoulos says with an obvious sense of pleasure.

Having managed million dollar salons in the past Galitsopoulos had a clear idea of what she did and did not want in the salon. Her choice in product lines clearly points to her demands of quality. "I would never sell anything that I would not use or that does not work."

She carries the Eufora and Bonacure lines which meet her high standards of quality for her clients. The Bonacure line offers a new treatment in which the cosmetologists of Pearl can actually exfoliate a client's hair using enzymes and then fill in the exposed spaces with collagen. This is a natural process that takes time but the result is much stronger hair that is on its way back to health.

Pearl still has room for a few stylists. If one passes the initial interview the candidate must then spend time in the salon to make sure it is a fit. "There just has to be the right vibe or it won't work,' states Galitsopoulos. And so far she has it working.

Visit Pearl at 2648 Watt Ave., Ste. 109, Sacramento. 916.484.1211

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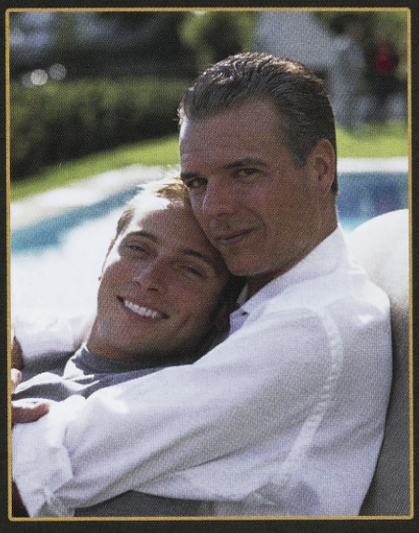

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By Matthew Burlingame

Levi Kreis' new CD "The Gospel According To Levi" is guaranteed to convert listeners into devoted followers of Levi

Make no mistake about it: Levi Kreis is a star. Still ascending, but having definitely arrived, Kreis has it all: talent, looks, personality and unyielding drive. But there is more to this former Baptist than entertaining the masses; Kreis prefers to deliver his message up-close and personal "just like we do it in the South."

At 2006's Rainbow Festival in Sacramento, when the performance venue's sound system failed, Kreis invited the audience to pull their chairs next to the piano and performed his set mic-less. It was a move that gave his adoring fans a chance to see up close the man behind the piano.

Now Kreis' shows listeners even more of the man behind the piano with his new CD The Gospel According To Levi. MGW caught up to Levi over the holidays and asked him about the new project. Here's what he had to say:

What is the overall message of this new CD? "The Gospel According To Levi" was a chance for me to address my history with the church. I started preaching when I was 12 years old and traveled to different churches every weekend for nearly 10 years. Combined with six years of reparative therapy through Exodus International, discovering a sense of self-love and accepting who I am as a gay man was no easy road. My own journey as taken me to a place where I now believe that religious intolerance and the exclusive mentality that accompanies religion is quite arguably the single most destructive force in our society. You can't watch CNN for 30 minutes without seeing some present conflict that isn't in one way or another fueled by religious intolerance. My hope would be that this album successfully confronts the lack of love that has become so synonymous with the church and suggests that there is a way to make room for accepting everyone's belief systems, no matter how different they may be from our own.

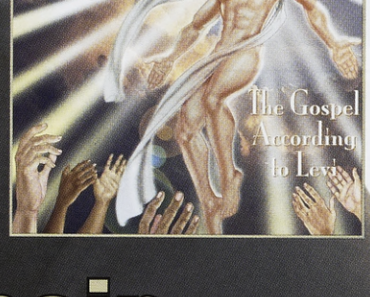
What are you hoping that listeners will take away from your new work? I would love for listeners to maybe take from this new material the idea that in a world where there are hundreds of different cultures, each with their own belief system, many with their one Holy Book, many with their own name for God, it is time for us as a human race to evolve to a place where we can let go of our need to be "right". For, in my opinion, our way is not the ONLY way, but ours is just another way, and every journey is divine.

Do you feel as though you had evolved as a singer and songwriter since your last CD? I don't know about that. But I do feel a huge sense of release making this album. It has been a wonderful way for me to put my past to bed, and let go of years of struggle; the same struggle we all go through as gay men growing up in the church. It feels good to finally have my say and move forward. I feel like that is personal evolution; maybe it translates into my music.

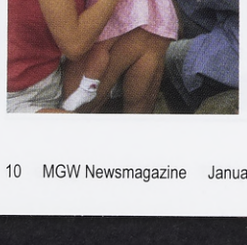
What track do you feel sets the overall tone of the CD? I don't think there is one track that sets the tone for the new album being that each song is a progression in a journey that has taken 10 years to live through. I did try to strike a balance between confrontation and love through the CD. I hope I succeeded in that department as I'm not really a fan of artists who just feel they have to bitch about something without providing a solution somewhere.

What are you looking forward to in 2007? Getting my first music video made, getting back on the road for nearly 200 dates, and spending time with my new husband!

levikreis.com



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.



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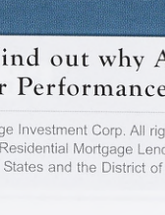

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PRIDE HIGH

LGBT COMIC BOOK HIGH ON PRIDE AND DIVERSITY

By David Alexander Nahmod

Tommy Roddy doesn't pay lip service to gay pride, tolerance and diversity. He lives it.

Roddy wears many hats. Pride High, his innovative new comic title, recently debuted. Roddy is very excited about this project, but first, he wanted to discuss his new film!

In Pandemonium, a gay sci-fi romp, he plays Trishell, a "bitchy queen diva".

"We shot the film on weekends in San Francisco" says Roddy. "We all had day jobs, but we got it done. It's my first feature, and it was shown at the Opera Plaza Cinema in San Francisco, as well as several small LGBT film festivals."

And what's the film about?

"It's about a young man who comes out, moves to San Francisco, and makes a few friends. Then, he finds a box, opens it, and unleashes creatures that want to kill him!
So for part of the film he's trying to get a date, and for the rest of the film he's trying to kill these creatures!"

Interested parties can visit the film's website: www.pandemoniummovie.com

Mention his new comic title, and Roddy gets even more excited!

Though gay characters have been cropping up in mainstream comics of late—DC Comics recently outed Batwoman to much fanfare—we've yet to have a superhero title to call our own, one that's produced by and for members of our community. That's all changed with Tommy Roddy's Pride High.

The serialized book is set at the Poseidon Preparatory Academy For Heroic Youth, a boarding school for teenage super heroes. The stories will follow the adventures of the school's Gay/Straight Alliance, and will feature a group of characters as diverse as Roddy's own circle of friends.

The lead character, Mindsweeper, is a powerful telepath who can go into people's heads and possess them. Mindsweeper's boyfriend, Kid Mischief, has the Power of Empathy—he can affect people's emotions. He is also a mild telekinetic (the ability to lift solid objects via thought) and is a developing telepath.

In an innovative move inspired by his own life, Mindsweeper's best friend, Suravi, is a lesbian, as is Roddy's own real life best friend.

"And why shouldn't gay men and lesbians befriend each other? Roddy asks matter-of-factly. "We're all part of the same community."

Suravi is a visually impaired hero. She can create searing blasts of light with her hands, and was blinded by her own power.

What will make Pride High so meaningful to LGBT readers is the Reader Submission page at the Pride High website.
There, readers can create and submit characters of their own for future appearances. Pride High will feature the shape-shifting Masquerade, a transgender hero submitted by a transgender reader.

There will even be a "token" straight character: Chip Cheetah, half boy, half cheetah, whose power is speed.

Pride High is a true labor of love for Roddy, who's writing, editing and publishing, with a little help from Brian Ponce. The two met online at the Gay League of America, a Yahoo chat group for LGBT comic book fans.

Ponce lives in Wisconsin, where he is a party promoter, DJ, and volunteer at his local LGBT Community Center.

"It was important that I find time for this wonderful endeavor," says Ponce. "There is amazing diversity on this project, both on and off the page. Everyone involved is gay and biracial. We each have an understanding of what it's like to be different on multiple levels".

Pride High is available in English, Spanish, French, Dutch and Japanese. It's in full color, printed on glossy paper, and costs $3.99 an issue.

Roddy recently did a book signing at Whatever, a gay owned comic book store in San Francisco. The response was tremendously positive.

"I'd love to see Pride High committed to film, but as an animated series, not as a live action feature," says Roddy. In the meantime, he's hard at work on new issues, and launching additional titles through his own label, Pride Comics.

To read full bios of the characters, to make a reader submission, to join the Pride High message board, or for order information, please visit pridecomics.com

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New Year's '07

20th & K was the place to be this New Year's Eve! Hundreds of people made Headhunters, FACES Nightclub & The Depot the hot spots of Lavender Heights.

Photos by Rich Jones—For more photos of New Years, and past events, logon to mgwnews.com and visit our online photo archives.

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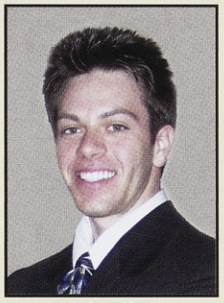

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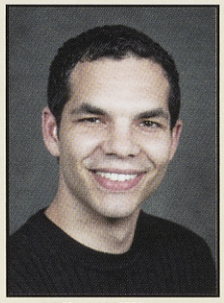

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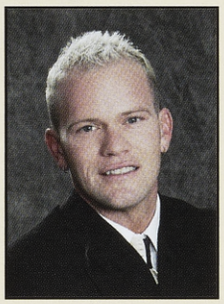

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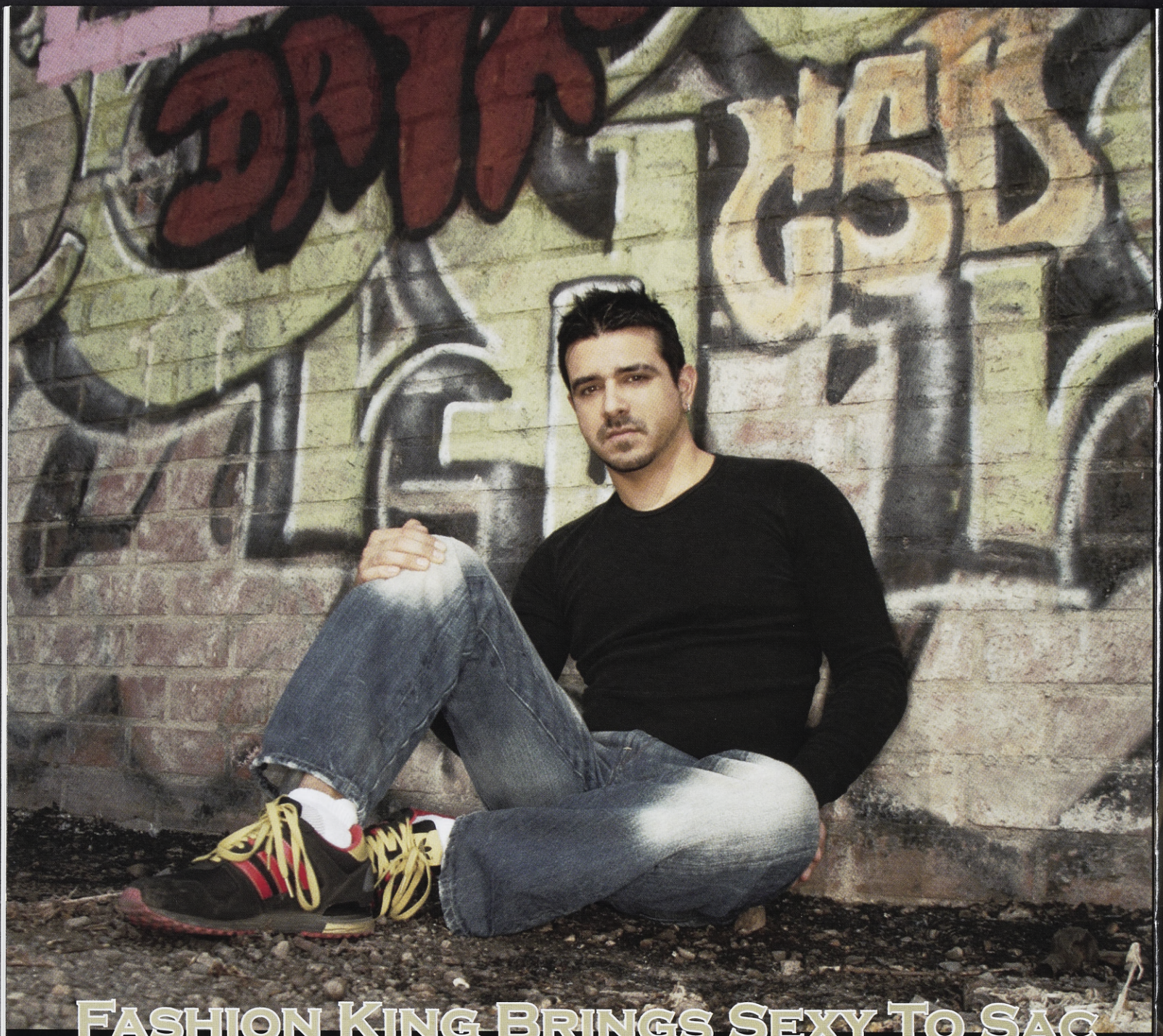
Happy New Year From The McMartin Realty Team!



Fashion King Brings Sexy To Sac

Los Angeles based clothing line, Andrew Christian, has been designing and producing contemporary collections of urban inspired menswear since its inception in 1997. Featuring underwear, swimwear, edgy tees, woven bottoms and accessories, the unique line can be found in exclusive boutiques such as Kitson Men (Los Angeles), Patricia Field (New York), and online retailers Universal Gear and International Jock. More can be also found online at www.andrewchristian.com

This year the company released a line of "uber-trendy" printed men's underwear with Show-It Technology™, containing a strap inside each pair that lifts and accentuates an individual's "prized possessions." The Gothic, Sport, Fashion, and Basics-themed lines are available in a range of styles from low and super-low-cut briefs, boxer briefs, and jock straps. Each style is intricately designed using nail-head studding and printed graphics, utilizing innovative fabrics such as sports mesh, sheer, and baby thermal.

A massive cross-country promotion and launch in select fashion forward locations such as Los Angeles, New York, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, DC included fashion shows, model signings, underwear contests, club events and meet-and-greets with Andrew Christian and the other designers. Brand awareness was implemented by handing out select wristbands, exclusive underwear, and various "eye candy" neckwear accessories.

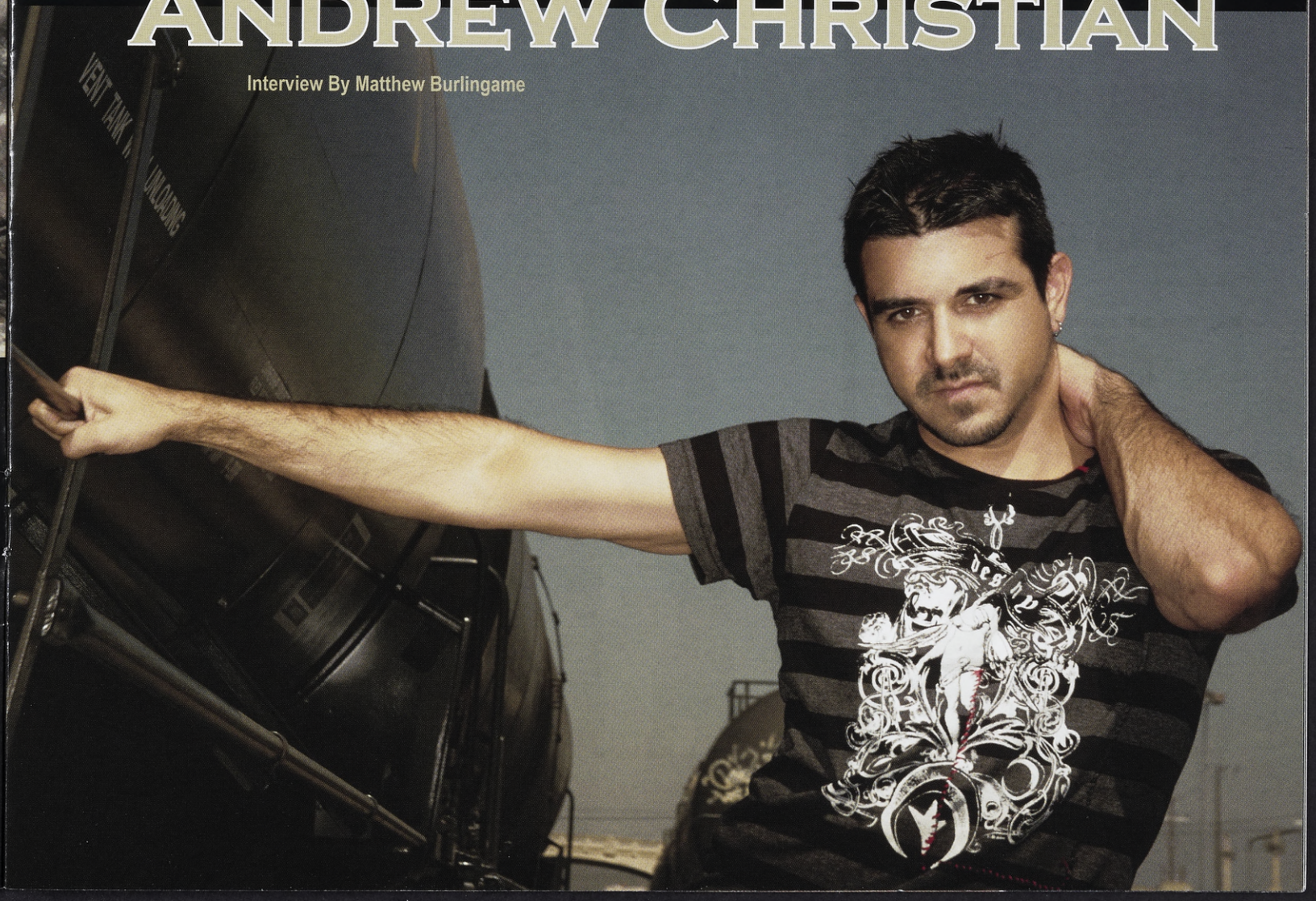
Fashion forward and out-of-the-box thinking has allowed Andrew Christian to exclusively develop a line of "tech" swimwear and t-shirts, featuring a pocket and special eyelet specially designed to fit the iPod Nano™.

Andrew Christian clothing has been spotted on celebrities such as Logo's top vocal artists Jason and deMarco, and various stars of the newly released movie *Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds*.

For the latest buzz on Andrew Christian clothing line and events, check out: andrewchristian.com and myspace.com/andrewchristianclothing for an introduction to forward modernism.

Andrew Christian

Interview By Matthew Burlingame



What gave you the idea of doing this type of program? Our underwear and clothing line appeals to young, urban guys and is popular with DJ's so it was just natural to start doing club promotions with the DJ's and go-go boys. The go-go boys really love our new line of underwear. At one event someone actually went through all of the go-go boys' bags in the changing room and stole all of their Andrew Christian Underwear...leaving tip money and everything else in the bags. This shocked me and I asked one of the go-go boys why someone would steal your Andrew Christian Underwear and not anything else in the bags? The other go-go boys told me the type of underwear they dance in determines how many tips they receive and by wearing Andrew Christian Underwear they're able to earn the most tips. We're pretty sure than one of the go-go boys stole all of the Andrew Christian Underwear out of the other go-go boys' bags. We're still not sure why they didn't take the tip money, I guess there's some go-go boy code-of-conduct regarding tips.

You've been designing urban menswear since 1997. What first attracted you to this style? What inspired you in your early designs? Although I live in Los Angeles, I was inspired by the early club kids from NYC. Bring this extreme style into a marketable form was my early inspiration.

Your line is instantly recognizable both by name and design; did you see this coming when you first started out? Not at first, but then people started telling me that my designs changed their lives! It sounds odd that fashion and especially underwear could have such an impact, but they do have a way of making people look and feel sexy, and that can sure change a person's life. It is fun to think that my underwear allows people to express themselves in fun and sometimes rebellious ways.

Your underwear line is more than just trendy, it's a perfect blend of sex and style. What inspired this line? The line is inspired by seasonal fashion. Unlike other underwear lines that just have a couple of lines of basics, we produce four seasonal lines...Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter and Holiday. Because our underwear line changes with the times it is naturally sexy and stylish...and it doesn't hurt that all of the hottest A-list boys wear it!

Should underwear make you feel sexy? Yes. Underwear is now a style "must". It is as important as having the right shirt, pants or shoes. The day of the white brief is over and if you bring someone home, you definitely don't want to be standing there in tightie whities.

How often do you wear your own designs? Everyday...I want to look good too!

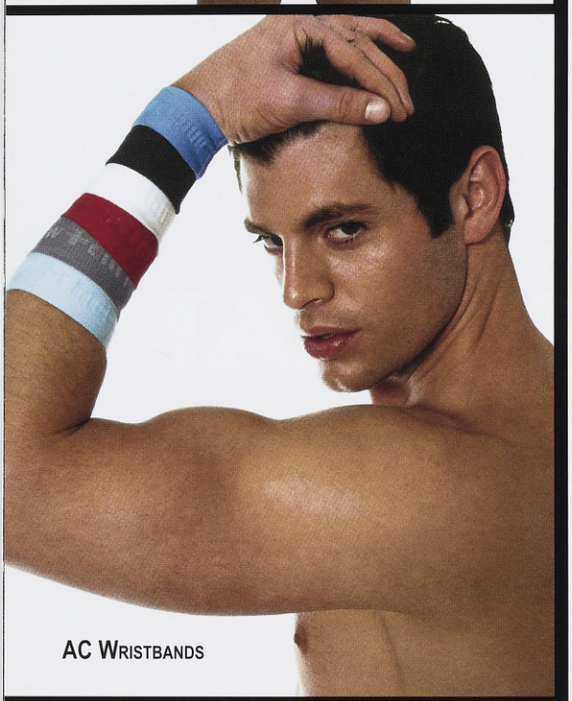
Your clothing is getting notice from the Celebrity circuit, is that a surprise? How do you feel about it? Even in the early days we always received celebrity attention. Because we are a fashion forward line, the celebrity stylists love Andrew Christian. You can't put a celebrity in "yesterday's news" as there is some lead-time between taping a show and airing it. For these reasons, stylists always want the most progressive fashion for their clients.

Your tech swimwear and t-shirts are cutting edge: fashion meets modern living. Do you see more of this type of blending as a coming trend? Yes there will certainly be more of this in the coming seasons...fashion will be more electronic friendly and electronics will be more fashionable.

What's next for you? Not sure yet...maybe starting celebrity roller derby...that reminds me I need to call Oprah to see if she is available.

What's next for your clothing line? Think colors...black and white is coming to an end... just follow the yellow brick road.

AC Italia Jock—Royal Blue—$18



AC Wristbands

Griffin Low Cut Boxer —$30

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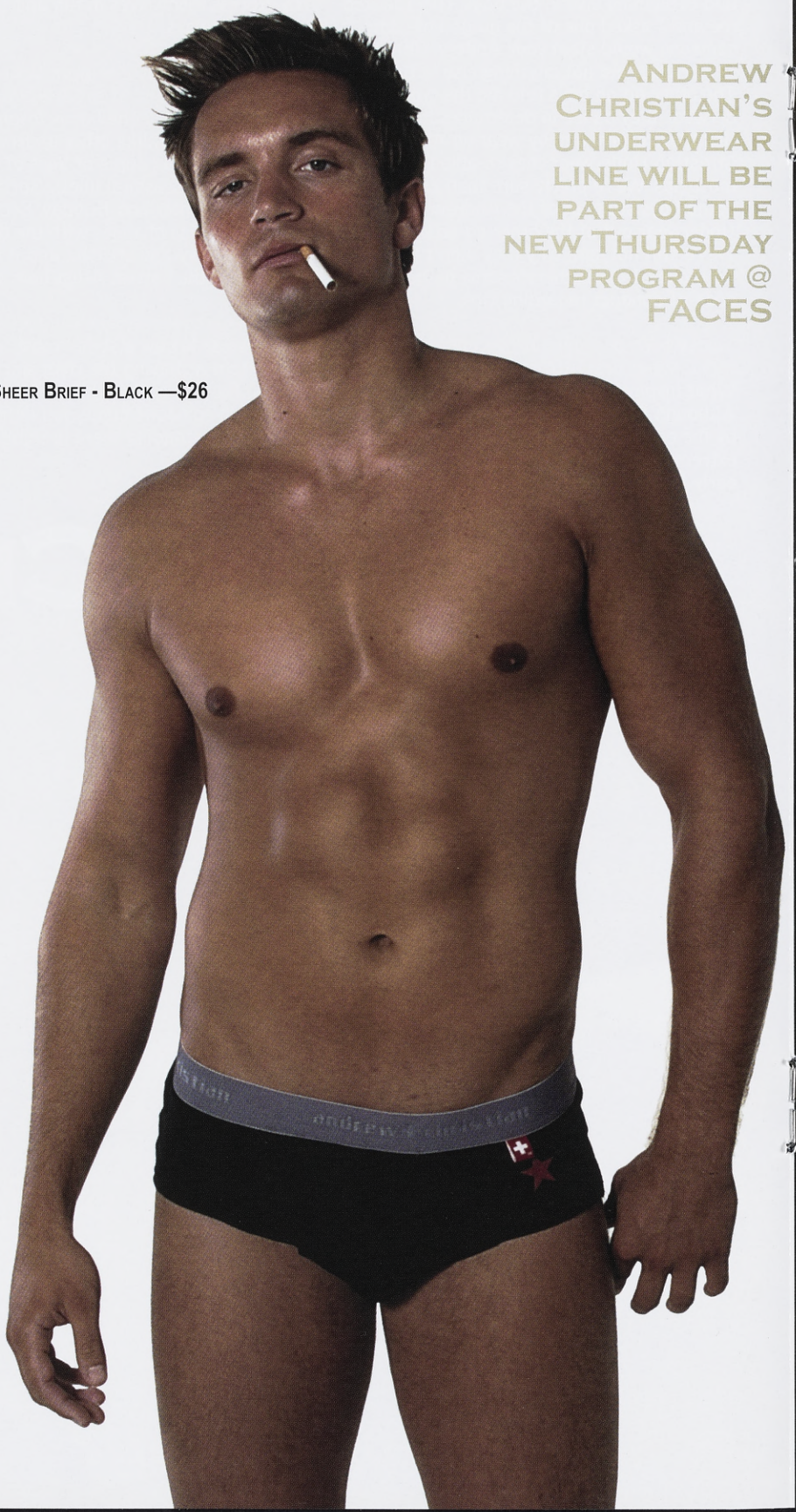
ANDREWCHRISTIAN.COM

Andrew Christian's underwear line will be part of the new Thursday program @ FACES

AC Sheer Brief - Black —$26



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Mama's Boy

Aaron

Age: 21 Sign: Libra
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight 160
Lived in Sac: 2 Years
Occupation: Bartender

FAVORITES

Bar: **Faces**
Music: **All types of music**
Restaurant: **Olive Garden**
Things: **Sport's & anything out doors**
Indulgence: **Alcohol, parting & dancing**
Celebs to hang out with: **Cameron Diaz**
Thing About Sac: **It's our Capital**
Greatest Fear: **Being alone**
Greatest Challenge facing gay people: **Working together in the community & fighting for our rights as equals**
Work out tips: **Be consistent & never give up**

Mama's Girl

Tiff

Age: 34 Sign: Libra
Hair: Light Brown Eyes: Blue/Green
Height: 5'4" Weight: 135
Lived in Sac: 7 Years
Occupation: Admin Assistant

FAVORITES

Bar: **If I'm playing foosball, it's all about Streets of London. For pool & hanging out with friends it's my 2nd home, The Depot**
Music: **I love music to death & love it all!**
Restaurant: **Tres Hermanas**
Things: **All things kind**
Indulgence: **Haha, all things kind & my lady friends**
Celebs to hang out with: **Ani would be number one but I would have to say Amy Sedaris – Hilarious!**
Thing About Sac: **I've made great friends who've changed my life**
Greatest Fear: **Losing the ability to feel**
Greatest Challenge Facing gay people today: **Faking it, you are gay don't hide it, it's a beautiful gift**
Work out tips: **Ditch you car & ride your bike!**

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Spicy Pickle® Grand Opening Gives Sacramento Sandwich Lovers Plenty To Relish

New Fast Casual Restaurant Spices Up Local Diners' Palates With High Quality, Culinary-Inspired Sandwiches

Spicy Pickle® fast casual restaurants today announced the grand opening of its latest location at 1401 O Street, giving Sacramento residents a taste of something different for lunch and dinner. Spicy Pickle, one of the hottest ideas in fast casual food today, offers customers a wide variety of culinary-inspired subs and panini sandwiches, fresh and unique salad combinations, and Neapolitan-style thin crust Pizzetti pizzas—all combined with warm and welcoming service and a comfortable local atmosphere.

"Spicy Pickle isn't your typical cookie cutter restaurant. Since every Spicy Pickle is individually owned and operated, each one takes on the flavor of its neighborhood," said Donna Feeney, Franchise Owner of Sacramento's new Spicy Pickle location. "The only things that don't change are our commitment to service, and our high-quality, imaginative and fresh menu choices."

"Every Spicy Pickle restaurant is proud to offer delicious and healthy food choices from around the world," said Spicy Pickle co-founder and head "foodie" Kevin Morrison. "Our chef-inspired sandwiches feature unique flavor combinations unlike anything else out there. One taste of a Spicy Pickle panini or signature sandwich will convince you."

Spicy Pickle's menu is refreshingly different. Patrons can select from eight different panini sandwiches ranging from the Sausalito Bandido—a spicy combo of Sausalito turkey, roasted red peppers, sundried tomatoes, pepperjack cheese and chipotle mayo spread—to the Bastille, a vegetarian mix of portabello mushrooms, roasted red peppers, smoked gouda, red onions, tomatoes, sprouts and sundried tomato mayo.

And that's just the beginning. The sub sandwich smorgasbord includes mesquite turkey, Cajun roast beef, mortadella (an Italian bologna), capocolla (spicy Italian ham), or six other types of meats plus tuna. Every meat is the highest quality—no preservatives, fillers or MSG—and sliced to order as the sandwich is made to ensure freshness.

Nine cheeses and dozens of spreads and toppings—all made fresh daily—are also on the list, piled on a choice of freshly-baked artisan ciabatta or focaccia breads baked daily from scratch. As the Spicy Pickle t-shirts say, "150,000 Combinations, Made One At A Time."

Spicy Pickle's new favorite is its Pizzetti (pizz-ET-ee), an 11-inch Neapolitan thin crust pizza available in eight varieties. Try the Toscano—a mix of capocolla, roasted red peppers, kalamata olives, mozzarella and tomato sauce—or the Sicilian, combining Sopressata sausage, roasted red peppers, smoked mozzarella, chili flakes and tomato sauce. Lovers of Southwestern cuisine will also love the Aztec, a spicy mix of roasted chicken, red onions, green peppers and mozzarella and chipotle pesto sauce.

Add in six scrumptious original salads with dressings made fresh each day, as well as the world's best spicy pickle marinated in a chili blend, and you've got a singularly satisfying fast dining experience, enjoyable with friends and family or as a quick lunch or dinner on the go.

Spicy Pickle's new Sacramento location is open seven days a week. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:30am to 8:00pm and on Sunday from 10:30am to 3:00pm. All major credit cards are accepted, and a complete catering menu is also available. Call 916.497.0829 or go to spicypicklefor more information.

Spicy Pickle Legacy

Founded in 1999, Spicy Pickle restaurants serve high quality meats and fine artisan breads, baked fresh daily, along with a wide choice of nine different cheeses, nineteen different toppings, and fifteen proprietary spreads to create healthy and delicious panini and sub sandwiches with flavors from around the world. As a leading "fast-casual" concept, Spicy Pickle offers menu items that are far beyond traditional fast food—but without the price point of casual dining. The hallmark of a Spicy Pickle restaurant is quality, service and an enjoyable atmosphere. The privately-owned company is headquartered in Denver, with franchised locations now open across six states and many more in development nationwide.

For more about Spicy Pickle, including franchise information and inquiries, visit spicypickle.com.

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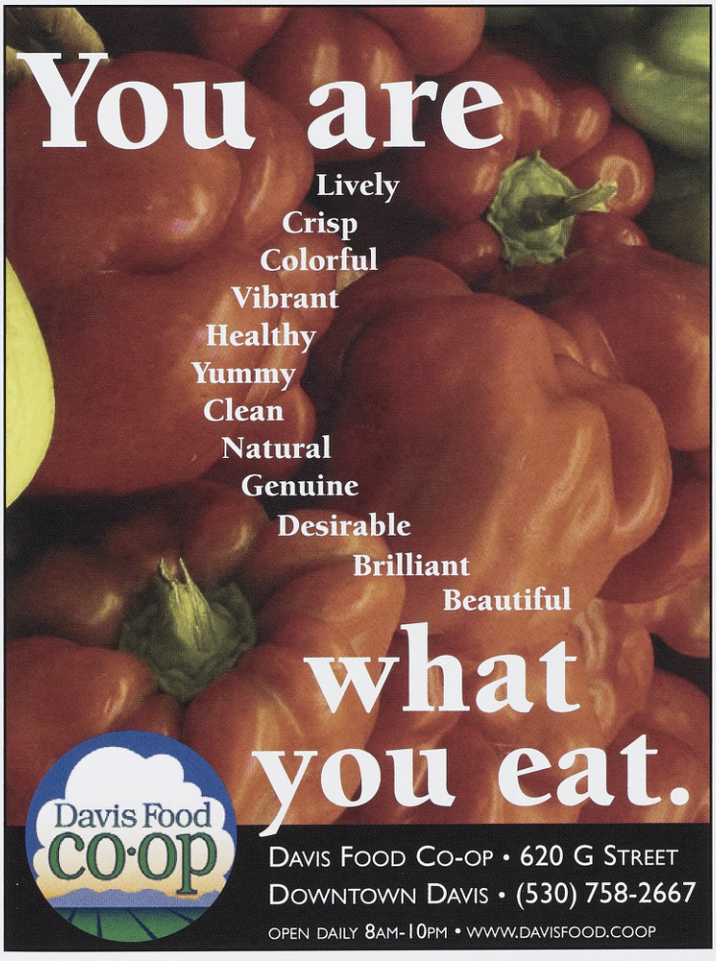

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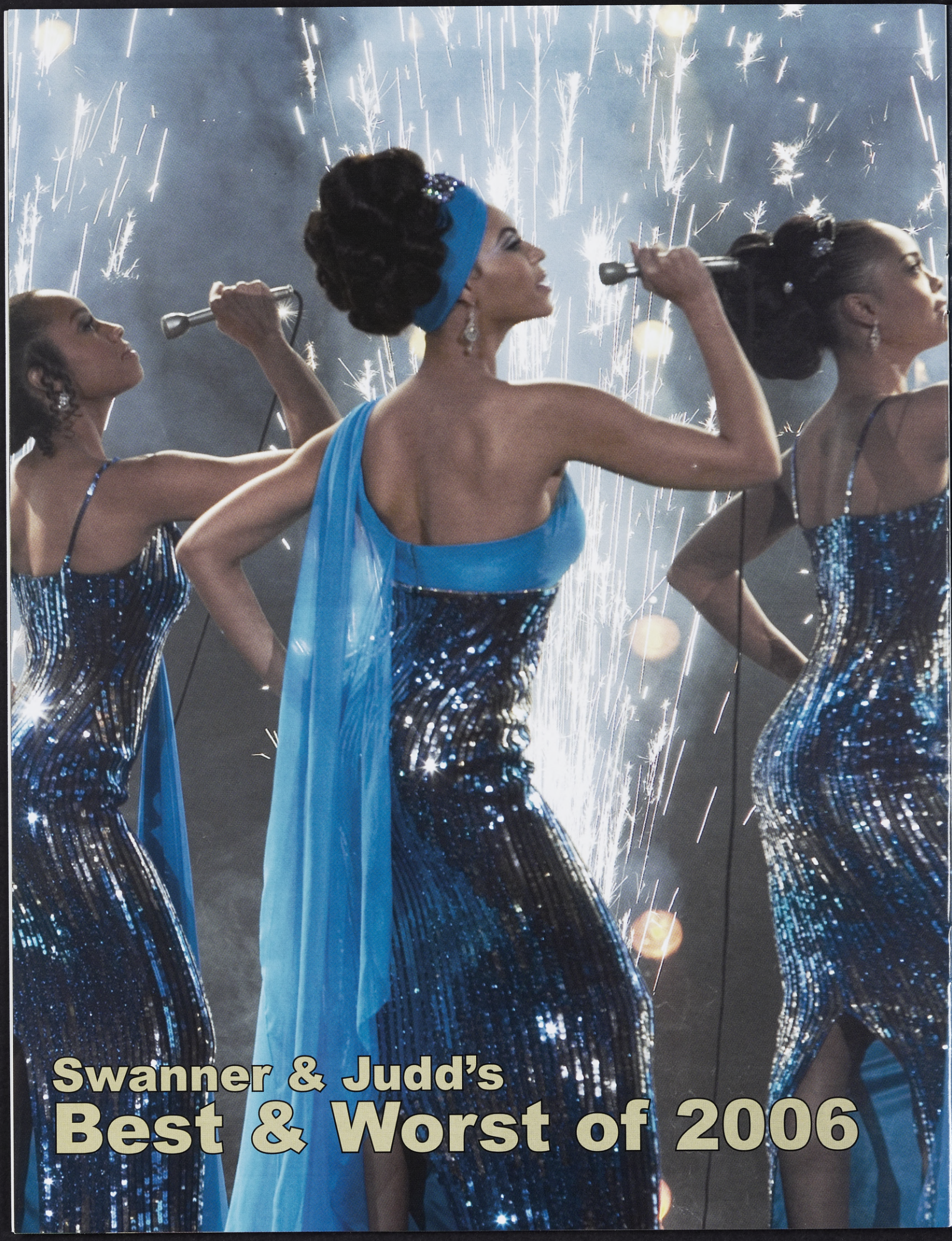


Swanner & Judd's Best & Worst of 2006

Swanner: 2006. Good or bad? I say "good". Brian?

Judd: Depends on my mood. I suppose "good" but who knows what I'll say after this is published. There were some exciting films made this year and some real heaps of crap, too.

Swanner: I had no problem filling out either list this year. So we need to scale down to the best and worst five. My worst is the hard list because there were so many crappy movies—but let start with the films of James Franco. 2006 was a banner year for Franco. He was in three of my ten worst films. *Annapolis and Fly Boys* being his two really bad performances. *Annapolis* is a rip-off of *An Officer and a Gentleman* and not done remotely as well. The second, *Fly Boys* was pile of crap about American pilots during WWI. He also did a cameo in *The Wickerman*...which I'll talk about later and also starred *Tristan + Isolde* so 2006 really wasn't a good year for him.

Judd: But he's so cute! He's like a modern James Dean. I don't know why you hate *Fly Boys* so much. Yes, it was awful, but it was entertaining. You were entertained, and isn't the overall point of a movie to entertain its audience? Now if you want to talk about a horribly boring film, let's talk about *The Devil Wears Prada*—now that's an awful movie. It was pushed as a Meryl Streep flick, yet she had 20 minutes on screen and two-word dialogue. The story was boring and the acting was forgettable—why there's talk about an Oscar for her performance in this piece of trash is beyond me.

Swanner: You're just saying that 'cause *The Devil Wears Prada* is on my best list. I'm surprised you're not all over this film...wasn't Meryl Streep channeling you in the movie (well, not the well dressed part). *Prada* had wonderful performances and the script was great fun. Granted I wanted to see more of Streep's character, but when she's there she's Oscar worthy—maybe not best actress but supporting for sure. I also loved *The Illusionist*. This was one of those magician movies from this year but was the stand out with Edward Norton giving a dynamite performance.

Judd: Oh goodness, I'm flattered! I liked *A Prairie Home Companion*, the movie based on Garrison Keillor's NPR radio show. It has a wonderful script, a great story and outstanding performances by Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, John C Reilly and others—except Lindsay Lohan. I hated her. But the movie is an absolute pleasure. I think the thing that made me enjoy *A Prairie Home Companion* the most is the humor. It's fun and sharp without being Blue. It's a movie that I could watch with my grandparents and we'd all equally enjoy it—and the regular readers of our column know that I'm not sending my grandparents "must see" movie lists very often.

Swanner: I thought your grandparents disowned you? Also on my Worst List was *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*. This film was shit. The first two movies were cute but this one just nose-dives. There are too many stupid storylines and many of the original actors stayed away from this project, which was a good move on their parts. What I find most disturbing is that it's doing well at theatres. Does this mean a fourth installment? Please say no...please!

Judd: I don't have grandparents, I was spawned. I was just trying to make a point. I also hated *The "Satan" Clause 3*, but not as much as I hated *Lake House*. That vomit-inducing romance film was horrible. The plot had more holes in it than my underwear and the acting was just blah. I hated it and I hated every woman in the audience that was surprised and cried at the ending—including you, Tom!

Swanner: *Lake House* was good, you bastard! It didn't make my list but it was one of the best romantic movies of the year, but you have to have a heart to appreciate romantic movies. Two more movies that topped my Best List were just plan funny. *Beerfest* and *Clerks 2* were two movies that I was really happy to see after being force fed a summer of movie meant for 13-year-olds. *Beerfest* was about a group of guys trying to defeat the Germans in a big beer drinking contest while *Clerks 2* takes place after the convenience store has burned down and the boys are now working for a burger place. *Clerks 2* has one of the best scripts of the year while *Beerfest* has Cloris Leachman stroking a kielbasa which was one of the funniest scenes of the year.

Judd: Those two were funny, but I have to say that *Little Miss Sunshine* and *Running With Scissors* rank up there with my top movies. Both of them are "dysfunctional family" movies but *Little Miss Sunshine* was a lighter affair about a family road trip where everything that could go wrong does. The humor is very dry and the actors are all top notch. *Running With Scissors* on the other hand, is very funny but also heavy in dealing with its theme of mental illness. Annette Benning is fantastic.

Swanner: Fine choices for a change. Both made my Top Ten but not Top Five. Two movies that sucked big time were the "man" movies, *The Wickerman* and *Little Man*. *Wickerman* starred the always awful Nicolas Cage in the remake of an already awful movie. Seriously... why remake a bad movie? It was terrible even though at the end Cage is burned to death. *Little man* was the Wayans brother's first movie since *White Chicks*...enough said. Both movies made me mad to watching since they sucked away moments of my life.

Judd: *Little Man* was horrible and I didn't see *The Wickerman*. I hate Nicolas Cage. He looks like he has an offensive odor. I will say *Flags of Our Fathers* was one of the best movies of the year. The direction was excellent and the acting was great. James Beach should get an Oscar nomination. Even Paul Walker was tolerable in the movie. *Flags of Our Fathers* is an all around good movie that I would recommend to my hypothetical "grandparents".

Swanner: My overall best and worst are *Dreamgirls* (Best) and *Marie Antoinette* (Worst). *Dreamgirls* is an almost a perfect movie—the script, direction, music and acting are amazing. I guess it's no surprise that a gay man would love *Dreamgirls* but I can't wait to own it. Jennifer Hudson (my new best friend) was spectacular and her performance will be talked about for years. *Marie Antoinette* is the Sophia Coppola film that tortures the audience for two hours with horrible dialogue and hideous direction delivering forgettable performances from what is usually a excellent group of actors. All this and they never show the guillotine. Please, how can you do a movie about Marie Antoinette without the guillotine? Sophia Coppola...off with her head!

Judd: Wow! We agree. I loved *Dreamgirls* and saw it twice before it opened. I've never liked a movie so much that I've gone to previews twice. But the music, Jennifer Hudson's voice and the story are so passionate that I had to see it again. As far as *Marie Antoinette*, I think what made it so unbearable—all Sophia Coppola movies are unbearable—are her fans. They love the slow boring shit she puts out time after time, and when you call her work slow and boring they retort with something like, "you just don't get it." What's to get? The audience is supposed to suffer as much as her characters. I don't like to experience tedium in day-to-day life but if filmed it somehow becomes meaningful? Sophia Coppola—you're an idiot and so are your fans! There, that should get me some hate mail.

Judd

BEST Dreamgirls, A Prairie Home Companion, Flags of Our Fathers, Running with Scissors Little Miss Sunshine
WORST Marie Antoinette, The Devil Wears Prada, Lake House, Little Man, Santa Clause 3

Swanner

BEST Dreamgirls, The Illusionist, Clerks 2, Beerfest, Devil Wears Prada
WORST Marie Antoinette, Wickerman, Santa Clause 3, Little Man, Flyboys/Annapolis

Banzai on the Beach

by Stefan Gruenwedel

Letters from Iwo Jima
Starring Ken Watanabe, Kazunari Ninomiya, and Tsuyoshi Ihara.
Directed by Clint Eastwood.
(Rated R, 130 min.)

Countries don't fight wars, people do. For all the mighty talk among the politicians or rulers regarding issues of sovereignty, territory, resources, religion, or ideology, it's the soldiers who ultimately pay the highest price in the effort to resolve conflicts.

Clint Eastwood is no stranger to cinematic battles, whether personal or epic, historical or contemporary. Now he ventures into uncharted waters with the second of two films released back to back, depicting the same battle during World War II from the perspective of both warring sides.

Last October, Flags of Our Fathers covered the American story of "D-Day" when US forces landed on the island of Iwo Jima in early 1945 and fought the Japanese troops bunkered there. This is the event made famous by Joe Rosenthal's photo of US troops raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi. Letters from Iwo Jima, shot in Japanese, covers the other side of the battle, which cost the lives of 6,800 Americans and 11,000 Japanese. This is not a sequel to Flags of Our Fathers; it stands on its own.

Letters from Iwo Jima concentrates on the men involved before and during the battle, not on the island's strategic importance. It remains a mystery exactly why this particular rock was significant to either the Japanese or the Americans, due to its considerable distance from Japan (700 miles)—although it provided a convenient, natural site for airfields. When the Japanese high command refuses to send in reinforcements, one has to wonder whether this battle late in the war was waged for more culturally symbolic reasons than strategic ones. Sending troops there was probably seen as a delaying tactic to allow the Japanese more time to strengthen their mainland defenses before the American ships advanced any closer.

Even if the effort was ultimately futile for the Japanese, Letters from Iwo Jima shows how the human side of the equation factored into the significant level of resistance they were able to muster.

Ken Watanabe plays Lt. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, a man opposed to the war with America because of his earlier travels to the US as an envoy. Yet his knowledge of Americans helps him formulate a plan of resistance that runs counter to the established military practice that his peers espouse.

Tsuyoshi Ihara plays the handsome Baron Takeichi Nishi, a famous Olympic equestrian (winner of a gold medal at the 1932 Los Angeles games) who finds himself in a battle very different from the kind in sports stadiums. His stature affords him much respect, which he uses to help his friend Kuribayashi during the political bickering from the officers who oppose the general's unconventional military preparations.

Kazunari Ninomiya, of boy-band Arashi fame, plays Private First Class Saigo, a common soldier who yearns for his wife, Hanako (Nae Yuuki), and his simple village baker life. Prone to run-ins with the authoritarian officers, he takes his punishments matter-of-factly rather than submit blindly to their dictates.

Instead of relying on conspicuous bloodletting, like most war films, Letters from Iwo Jima finds more psychological means—mirrored by the desaturated colors in each scene—to convey the personal hell that these soldiers endured prior to and during the fighting on this mosquito-infested island amid the foul-smelling, sulfuric air.

At times this ghastly business borders on the absurd and the horrific. Kuribayashi commands them to first kill ten GIs before they can allow themselves to be killed. Later, when all seems lost, Lt. Ito (Shidou Nakamura) orders his men to die with honor (blow themselves up with hand grenades) rather than surrender.

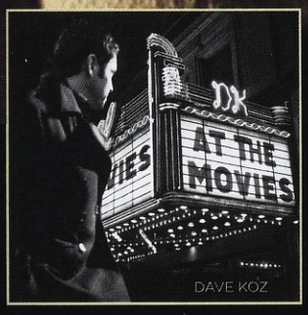
Although some American soldiers (all unknown actors) appear a few brief scenes, mostly they are shown as shadowy figures in the distance, lit briefly by flares in the night. Likewise the US Navy fleet is shown on a grand scale, looming on the horizon, advancing like a swarm of bees. The Americans remain a mysterious force to be reckoned with—which is probably how the Japanese soldiers regarded them 60 years ago.

Letters from Iwo Jima plays currently in Bay Area theaters and opens in Sacramento in January. Info: iwojimathemovie.com

MUSIC shelf

KELLY SWEET
WE ARE ONE
RAZOR & TIE

Although still young (eighteen), Sweet possesses a voice that conveys an amazing emotional depth and spirituality. With an ethereal vocal timbre, she sings of love, longing, and a host of other universal emotions. Sweet demonstrates her incredible musicality as her voice easily navigates a wide range of stylistically diverse songs on her debut CD, We Are One. The CD is produced and co-written by Mark Portmann (Josh Groban, Celine Dion). kelly-sweet.com



DAVE KOZ
AT THE MOVIES
CAPITOL

For his upcoming CD, world-renowned saxophonist Dave Koz turned to one of his favorite pastimes for inspiration. At The Movies is a lush collection of 12 timeless movie themes making it a must-have CD for music and film lovers. As a musician, Koz is especially cognizant of the importance music plays in making a film memorable. "These are songs that are so much a part of people's lives that I felt it was important to respect the original while nonetheless putting my own unique spin on them," he says. davekoz.com

REUBEN BUTCHART
GOLDEN BOY
RJO RECORDS

With much anticipation, this indie-soul artist releases his sophomore album this February, which will include 12 new, lushly orchestrated songs from including a duet with Antony of Antony & The Johnsons. Based in New York, Butchart is a singer-songwriter whose soaring voice has garnered comparisons to Stevie Wonder and Rufus Wainwright. His sound is a unique blend of soul-tinged chamber-pop. He was also the original pianist for Antony & the Johnsons.
reubenbutchart.com

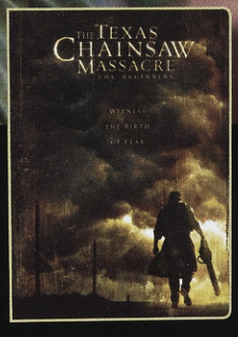
L TUNES: MUSIC INSPIRED BY "THE L WORD"
COLUMBIA RECORDS

'L Tunes' is a collection of tracks that musically reflect the rich and substantial content showcased in the ground-breaking smash hit Showtime television series. The CD combines new and classic music from lesbian artists as well as 'lesbian adjacent' female artists, including the lead-in track, Kirsten Price's "Magic Tree," as well as songs by Goldfrapp, Fiona Apple, Prototypes, Johnny Boy, Pink, Kelis, Da Brat featuring Cherish, PJ Harvey, Nina Simone, Tori Amos, The Cliks, Peaches, and BETTY.
musicwithatwist.com

DVD shelf

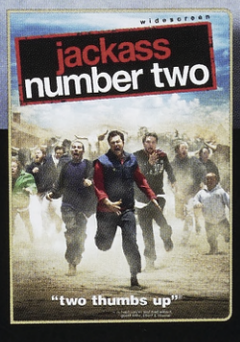
LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
20TH CENTURY FOX
$29.99

Olive dreams of winning the Little Miss Sunshine contest. Her family wants her dream to come true, but they are so burdened with their own problems that they can barely make it through a day without disaster. Olive's father is a flop motivational speaker, and is barely speaking with her mother. Her uncle, a renowned Proust scholar, attempted suicide following a romance with a male graduate student. Her brother, a follower of Nietzsche, has taken a vow of silence. And Olive's grandfather is a drug addict. Circumstances conspire to put the entire family on the road together with the goal of getting Olive to the contest foxmovies.com



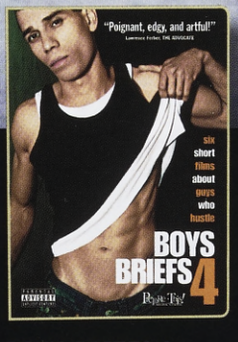
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING
NEW LINE CINEMA
$28.98

1969. On one last fling before Vietnam, two brothers embark on a road trip across Texas with their girlfriends. After their jeep crashes on a deserted highway, a sadistic Sheriff mysteriously arrives on the scene. Taking them to his secluded house of horrors, the Sheriff introduces his captives to his son, Thomas/Leatherface who has a ravenous appetite for chainsaws and torture. The audience becomes an eyewitness to the gory carnage inflicted by Leatherface. texaschainsawmovie.com



JACKASS: NUMBER TWO
PARAMOUNT HOME VIDEO
$29.99

Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera, Steve-O and the entire crew from the popular MTV franchise return in the most insane DVD of the year, jackass number two. Available in both rated and "too hot for theaters" unrated versions, jackass number two pushes the limits with all-new stunts, pants-wetting practical jokes, fun with bears, bees, snakes, bulls, sharks... and other REALLY bad ideas. jackassmovie.com



BOY'S BRIEFS 4
PICTURE THIS!
$26.95

At night, a world comes to life in the shadows of streetlamps, in the stalls of public restrooms, in the apartments of the well-to-do. This is a world most guys only dream about. But the world of the hustler is very real, and you will experience it yourself in these short films where hustlers fall in love, service their clients, and keep their secrets at all costs. Six short films about guys who hustle: Boy, Build, Gold, Into The Night, Gigolo, Rock Bottom—and the collection is hosted by real life hot sexy hustler Ricky! picturethisentertainment.com

Theatre

THE DYING GAUL

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season 12, Sanctuary, presents The Dying Gaul by Craig Lucas, directed by Bruce Elsperger, Feb. 3 through Mar. 4. There is a captioned performance on February 18 at 2 pm. All performances are at New Conservatory Theatre Center (Walker Theatre), 25 Van Ness Avenue near Oak Street in San Francisco. For tickets call NCTC's Box Office 415/861-8972. Shown L to R: Kalli Jonsson & Michael Phillis. Photo by Lois Tema. nctcsf.org

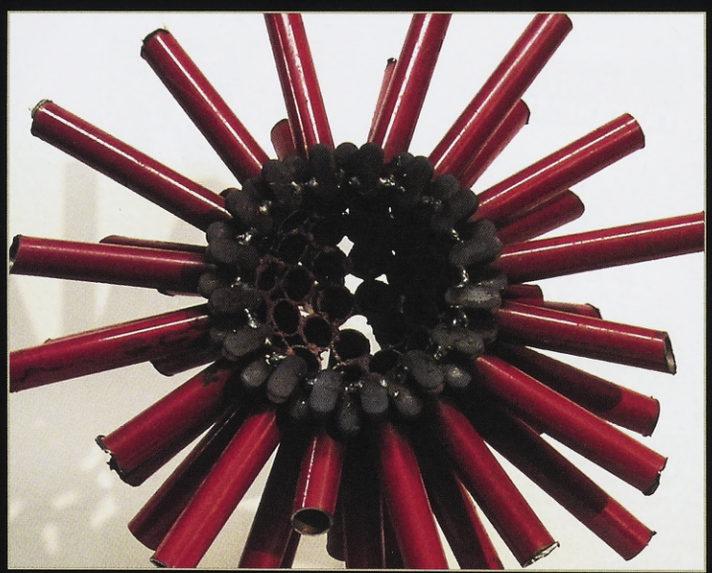
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Pottery World sponsors Magic Circle Theatre's production of Fiddler on the Roof, by Joseph Stein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick in the Roseville Theatre, 241 Vernon St., Roseville, CA 95678 on Fri. and Sat. evenings at 8:00, Sun. matinees at 2:00, Jan. 12 - Feb. 24, 2007. Tickets are $20 General Admission, $18 Seniors/Students, $10 children 11 years and under. (Special Loge seating prices available.) A $2.00 surcharge will be added to all tickets as of January. Call (916) 782-1777 for tickets. mcircle.org

CARHOPS IN BONDAGE

Written by Russ Dunn, directed by Kurt Kurtis, Carhops is an outer space rock 'n' roll fantasy set in the future 50's where the Queen of Outer Space and her performing Androids have just bombed on the Intergalactic Idol Hour. The Androids mutiny and land the saucer at the S & M Burger Palace and the Queen takes extreme measures in order to extract the ingredients of the secret sauce. Runs Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm. Lambda Players Theatre, 2427 17th Street (off Broadway). 916.444.8229. lambdaplayers.com

Galleries

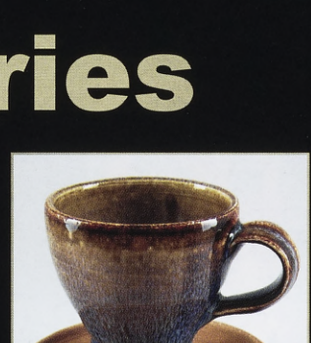


REBIRTH OF VENUE BY RICK CARPENTER

Exploding Head Gallery presents Andy Steele, Dylan Tellesen and Rick Carpenter in a three-person exhibition. Carpenter reuses, recycles and transforms steel and copper refuse into beautiful works of art that can be displayed indoors or outdoors. The show runs Jan. 4-Jan. 27 with an opening on 2nd Saturday, Jan. 13. explodingheadgallery.com

FRESH FACES

New Artists in the New Year Show runs through Jan. 26 with Elaine Bowers, Jan Daily, Elizabeth Ferry, Bob Miller, Ragan Ragan Sculpture by: Robert Finn. 20th St. Art Gallery is located in Midtown Sacramento. The gallery shows original fine art and contemporary by emerging and mid-career artists. Most of the artists are local to the Greater Sacramento Area. The exhibits change completely each month. 20th St. Art Gallery involves itself in numerous art community activities. 20art.net



THE CERAMIC CUP

Leslie Laurent's pottery is thrown or handbuilt in her Sierra Nevada foothills studio. Her colorful pots begin with a stoneware clay, are decorated with glazes she mixes herself and fired in an electric kiln to 2200F. The flowers and animals from her rural neighborhood are frequently represented in her work. artcollab.com

HIV NEWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

TRAVELING MEN STUDIED

Researchers recently undertook a study to examine the sexual risk behaviors of men who have sex with men while traveling for leisure. The subjects were 304 men visiting popular tourist areas, who completed a brief survey on sexual behavior as well as substances used while on vacation, including erectile dysfunction drugs.

Of the group, 47 percent reported sexual activity while on vacation, with an average of 1.33 unprotected anal sex acts during their brief stay, averaging 3.6 days. Of the 143 men who had sex, more than half (70+) reported sex with a partner of unknown HIV status. Even higher rates of risk behaviors were reported by men who used substances or erectile dysfunction drugs.

The authors concluded that since so many male travelers who have sex with other men are reporting behaviors that may put their health at risk, including substance use and unprotected sexual activity, interventions specifically designed to reduce risk behaviors among this group of tourists are needed.

STUDY EVALUATES SURGERY RISKS

Kaiser researchers in Oakland recently released findings of a study in which they reviewed the records for 332 HIV-positive people who had had a number of different types of operations (including heart, abdominal and orthopedic) between 1997 and 2002. The researchers compared the immediate and long-term surgical outcomes of the HIV group to 332 people of the same age and gender without HIV who had had the same operations.

The study found that, overall, those with HIV did fairly well. However, the researchers noted that, among people with a pre-operative viral load greater than 30,000 per milliliter, or those with the weakest immune systems, there were a few more complications, a few more cases of pneumonia within one year post-op, and even a few more deaths.

The researchers said that, because of combination therapies now available to those with HIV, many people "are living longer and regaining a substantial amount of immune function." Many will require surgical attention because of a variety of disorders that generally affect the human condition. "In many cases," they said, HIV sero-status (whether a person is infected with HIV) "should not be a criterion when determining the need for surgery if patients have adequate viral control."

The study concluded that doctors should not deny surgery to people with HIV for fear of doing harm. "If the surgery is urgent, go ahead and do the surgery, but pay close attention to the issue of good pulmonary care around the time of surgery."

If the person is not yet on anti-retroviral therapy and the surgery is elective, they recommended holding off for a while, if possible. "Get their viral loads under control. And in most cases, that can be done in less than six months."

PROTEIN RESEARCH COULD HELP IN FINDING CURE

South Korean scientists say they are closer to understanding how a protein found in both primates and humans blocks the progression of the AIDS virus in the apes. The researchers say the discovery of a way to identify the structure and functions of an HIV-inhibitor protein called TRIM5 could help scientists working to develop a cure for AIDS and other viral diseases.

TRIM5 is a protein found in the cells of humans and most types of monkeys. In several species of monkeys, its presence prevents viral infection, although the method it does so has been unclear.

Normally, when HIV enters a cell, it immediately begins several cycles that result in infection—uncoating (breaking down the protein shell that surrounds the virus); reverse transcription (the conversion of viral RNA into DNA); and integration (when the viral DNA enters the cell nucleus and begins to reproduce itself over and over). But when HIV-1 enters the cells of several monkey species, it is blocked by their TRIM5 protein before the integration process begins.

The human form of this protein does not respond in the same way, but researchers have hoped to learn enough about the monkey's protein to modify it so that it can also inhibit the human infection process. The South Korean researchers say they hope this study will "pave the way for scientists to identify the cause of various diseases created by HIV and other viruses."

"We have determined the structure of a key domain of the protein," they say, and "we hope our research will lead to drugs or better therapy for other incurable viral diseases."

HEALTH ISSUES ON 2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

A preview of bills filed for California's 2007 legislative session includes several health-related bills. Among them, AB 66, would require all prison inmates to undergo HIV screening both at in-take and upon release. Assembly Bill 16, sponsored by Assemblymember Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View), would require girls entering the sixth grade to be vaccinated against human papilloma-virus (HPV). Gov. Schwarzenegger has also made it his priority to provide health insurance for the six million state residents who are uninsured.

AN UPDATED OVERVIEW OF TRIPLE COMBO THERAPY

Systematic overviews from time to time compare the effectiveness of initial three-drug combination anti-retroviral therapy, identify the predictors of possible responses to alternative treatment regimens, and examine changes over time.

The three-drug combination therapy was defined as two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTI) or nucleotide and NRTI, plus either: (1) a protease inhibitor (PI); (2) a non-nucleoside RTI (NNRTI); (3) a third NRTI; or (4) a Ritonavir/Norvir-boosted PI (BPI).

Week 24 and 48 results showed that NNRTI and BPI-containing regimens offer superior virologic suppression over 48 weeks, supporting existing guidelines for the choice of initial anti-retroviral therapy. Pill count was not a consistent predictor of virus suppression.

Anti-retroviral therapy with three agents, say the results, provides potent suppression of plasma HIV cell-structure levels below detectable limits in many treated persons—with resulting immune system improvements, decreases in HIV-related complications, and prolongs survival. The ideal drug combinations will maximize anti-retroviral potency, immune system reconstitution, and quality of life—while minimizing medication-related toxicities and the potential for drug resistance.

The conclusions show that current published guidelines utilize the best available evidence for physicians to make specific recommendations regarding treatment.

Twenty individual anti-retroviral drugs, four fixed-dose two-drug combinations, and two fixed-dose three-drug combinations are currently available, resulting in 364 potential three-drug combinations for treatment.

IN LOVING MEMORY

...OF FRIENDS LOST IN JANUARY

January 1986:
Ray Wintree

January 1987:
Herb Finger
Kevin Wulfert

January 1988:
Hal Merritt
Dan Borntrager

January 1989:
Terry Pennington
Kenneth Morrison
Timothy Scott Shepherd
William R. Simmons

January 1990:
Robert Winchester
Peter Massman
Rob Roy Frisch
Bill Gilliam

January 1991:
Jeff Fowler
Terry Holme
Peter David Lucero
John Paddock
Gerald O'Brien
Paul Barnes
Gregory Harlan

January 1992:
Lance Brown
Ruth Smith
Chuck Kitlinger
Michael Scott Olson
Herman Adams, Jr.
Malik Springs

January 1993:
George Whitfield
Jean Anderson
Chris Bolton
Fran Findley
Joseph Torres
Glenn Olson
Jimmie Hildebrand
Bob Foti
Larry Paladini

January 1994:
Randy Gray
Ron Drake
Michael Rosenberg
Scott Holkko
Hugh Hayes
Dale Rezabek
Gregory Freeder
Patrick Butler
Jim Hatton
James Hutton
Frank Zadnik
Ron Harmon
Mark Baptista
Bill Miller
David Fithian
Leon Kaufman
James Graves
Gregory Renouf

January 1995
Paul Starr-Fuhr
Sean Hoag
Scott Alderson
Paul Hayes
Christopher Logan
Tony Gonzales
Chuck T.
Lloyd White
Jesse S.
Steven Loren
Yardley

January 1996:
William Womack
Robert Gilbert
Dr. Robert Walter
Daryl Seibel
Kathleen Thomas
Andre Smith
Elsworth Ensley
Bill J.
James Corregan
Elliott S.
Brian B.
Joseph Twyman
Billy Hildebrand
Michael Bowens

January 1997:
Gregory Estep

January 1998:
John B.
Robb Wendell Campbell

January 1999:
Steve Dolan
Gary Hayes Groff
Rev. Merrill Follansbee

January 2000:
William Knudson
Bradley Long

January 2001:
Lori Jaeger

January 2002:
Alta Mae Redondo
David Baker

January 2003:
Mike Bennett
Nyanza Turner
Scott Franklin Craig
Gail Fitzpatrick
Kevin Greendyke

January 2004:
Isaac Brucker
James Michael Berg

Year Unknown:
Robert Anderson
Rudy Benavides
Lee Bettinger
Mike Birney

To add the name of loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, or to clarify a "Year Unknown", call (916) 737-0309.

HIV TESTING SITES & STD CLINICS

Sacramento County, Placer County
(a) = Anonymous (c) = Confidential

• AIDS Anonymous Testing (and info re site locations) 800-584-8183 (PCR viral load testing, 1-2 day results)
• Alternative Test Site ("C Street Clinic") (a) 916-874-7720 (1500 C Street, Sacramento; By appointment only)
• Davis Community Clinic 530-371-2314 (Mon - Fri 6-9pm, Tues 6:30-9pm) ($30 fee)
• Del Paso Health Center (c) 916-648-0970 (Mon - Fri, By appointment only)
• The Effort (c) 916-444-6996 (Mon - Fri, 2-6pm, By appt. only)
• Breaking Barriers (c) 916-447-2437 (By appointment only)
• Harm Reduction Services (c) 916-456-4849 (Mon - Thurs 8am-4pm, Fri 11am-4pm, Sat 1-5pm, Walk-in) (Free)
• John H. Jones Community Clinic (a) (c) 916-371-1966 (Anonymous testing, Thurs only) (Walk-in available on Thurs 10am-4pm) ($30 confidential testing)
• Meadowview Community Action 916-399-9116 (Mon - Fri 8am-5pm)
• Mexican-American Alcoholism Program (a) (Victor Ruiz) 916-394-2320 x-228 (Mon - Thurs 8am-5:30pm, By appt./Walk-in) (Free)
• North East Health Center (c) 916-969-2725 (Mon, Wed, Fri, By appointment/Walk-in)
• North East Health Center (c) 916-726-1804 (Mon - Fri) (Free)
• Oak Park Multi Service Center (c) 916-875-2995/916-875-2999 (Mon - Fri 8am-4pm, By appointment/Walk-in)
• Peterson Clinic (Woodland) (a) 530-666-8960 (Wed 6-9pm) (Alternative Test Site) (Free)
• Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (c) (a) 916-332-5715 (Thurs - Fri 9am-4pm, fluctuating hours--call first)
• Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (5550 Franklin--Franklin&Fruitridge) (Mon - Fri 9-5)
• Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (Downtown) (a) 916-444-7966 (Anonymous testing)
• Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (Roseville) (c) (a) 916-781-3310 (Mon - Thurs 9am-8pm, Wed 10am-4pm, fluctuating hours--call first) (Sliding scale testing fee)
• Sacramento County Primary Care Clinic (c) 916-874-9765 Fax: 974-9765 (Mon - Fri, By appointment only) (Free)
• Sacramento County Primary Health Clinic (c) 916-874-7720 (Wed & Thurs, 8-11:15 am and 1-4:15pm, By appointment only)
• South City Health Center (c) 916-875-0802 (Mon - Fri, 8am-5pm, By appointment/Walk-in)

SACRAMENTO COUNTY AREA STD/HIV CLINICS

• Northeast Health Center 916-969-2725 (Mon - Fri)
• South City Health Center 916-875-0801 (Mon - Fri)
• Capital Health Center 916-874-5303 (Mon - Fri drop-in)
• Del Paso Health Center 916-648-0970 (STD exams only) (Mon - Fri)
• Oak Park Health Center 916-875-2995 (Mon - Fri)
• Primary Care Center 916-74-9765 (Mon - Fri)

PLACER COUNTY TEST SITES

• Placer County Community Clinic (a) (c) 530-889-7170 (Thurs 9-12, Results 1-3pm, By appointment only) (Free)
• Placer County Community Clinic (a) (c) 530-546-7261 (Tues before 12pm, By appointment only) (Free)
• Placer County Community Clinic (a) (c) 530-889-7170 (First & third Wed of month, By appointment only) (Free)

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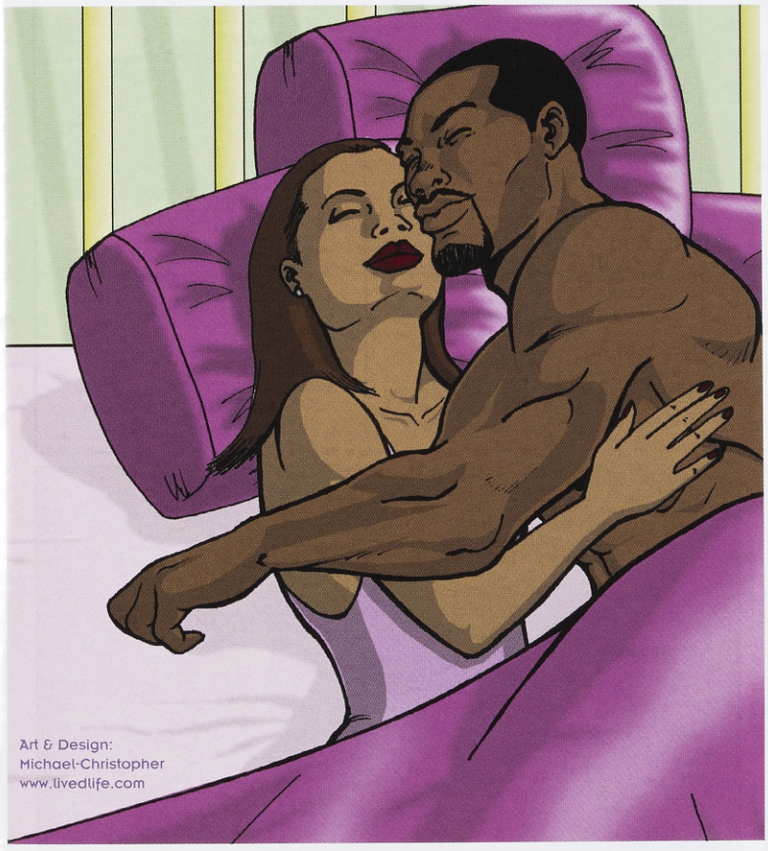

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Fitness Happens
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1422 28th St., Ste B,
916.271.7653

BUSINESS RESOURCES
Midtown Business Assoc.
midtowngrid.com

CHURCHES
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916.364.4325
Davis Community Church
412 C St., Davis, 530.753.2894
daviscommunitychurch.org
Dignity
2529 K St., 916.492.6452
Fair Oaks United Methodist
9849 Fair Oaks Blvd.
916.961.6631

DATING
VXO Partners
VXOPartners.com/sac

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
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2631B Riverside Blvd., 916.486.0331
Lambda Community Center
1927 L St., 916.442.0185
L.L.A.C.E. (GLBT Library & Archives)
1414 21st St., 916.492.0558
Sierra Gay Men's Network
ccservices.cc/sgmn
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous
916.712.0529, sca-recovery.org
Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club
916.725.9467
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club
916.455.6540
UC Davis GLBT Center
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sacstonewall.org

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65 University Ave., 916.922.6334
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1930 K St., 916.448.0706
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2007 K St., 916.443.7637

SPORTS
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gaybasketball.com
Capital City Volleyball League
sacvball.com
Sacramento Arts & Games Assoc.
916.451.8663

STORAGE
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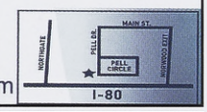

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